

REMARKS

This paper is in response to the Office Action of Aug. 22, 2007. This paper is being filed within 2 months of the final Office Action. Accordingly, the Office is requested to process this request in accordance with expedited after-final processing.

Claims 1, 3-10, and 12-20 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b), as being anticipated by Walker et al. (6,358,114). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

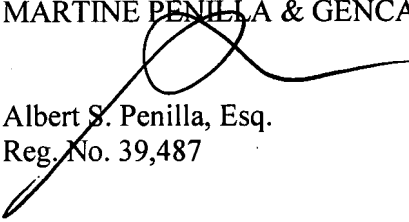
The Office has rejected each of the independent claims under new art, not previously presented. Walker et al. teaches an apparatus that has a loading rod 16 and a shaft 4. An important feature of Walker et al., however, is the flexible diaphragm 1. The flexible diaphragm 1 is neither a wafer carrier nor a wafer holder, as specifically recited in each of the independent claims. To the contrary, the flexible diaphragm 1, as taught by Walker et al. is to be covered on the work side with a polishing material. Col. 4, lines 66-67. The machine of Figure 2 in Walker et al. is configured to be moved towards a workpiece so that the bulge is compressed giving it increased contact area. Col. 5, lines 4-7.

Independent claim 1 recites that a wafer carrier is coupled to a second end of the spindle, and the linear force is applied to the first end of the spindle. Independent claims 9, 10, 15, and 19 also defines this configuration.

For at least these reasons, the Applicants submit that Walker et al. fails to teach each and every feature of the pending claims. Accordingly, the Office is respectfully requested to withdraw the Section 102 rejection, and issue a Notice of Allowance.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present amendment, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (408) 749-6903. If any other fees are due in connection with filing this amendment, the Commissioner is also authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No LAM2P306C). A duplicate copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
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